

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

arduous problems of Church and State, assailing the corruption of the times with a fervour and a fearlessness that Savonarola himself was not to surpass. One of Catherine's latest letters to a high ecclesiastical dignitary has peculiar interest, as connecting her with the subsequent development of the Schism ; it is addressed to Angelo Correr, newly appointed by Urban to the Castello bishopric of Venice, " with desire of seeing you illumined with a true and most perfect light," urging upon him the work of reformation ; for, otherwise, " you would be verily a demon, because you would be abandoning the will of God, and conforming yourself with that of the devil."¹ How Angelo Correr followed this light was soon to be seen.

Catherine thus stands with Petrarca as the second great letter-writer of the fourteenth century. It is noteworthy that, although the dates of their correspondence overlap (it seems to me most probable that the Saint began writing letters in 1370, the year of her entry into public life, although the majority of those that have been preserved date from 1376 to 1379), and they were to some extent battling in the same cause, they had, with the exception of Charles V of France, only two correspondents in common : the physician, Francesco di Bartolommeo Casini, and the Augustinian friar, Bonaventura Badoara, the " Cardinal of Padua." ² In Petrarca's epistles to Urban V, we find something of the same spirit that inspired Catherine in writing to Gregory XI and Urban VI; but, as a rule, their epistolary styles are poles asunder. Catherine's language is the purest Tuscan of the

¹ Letter 341 (34).

³ Petrarca, *Rer. Sen.*, Lib. XVI. ep. z, 3, Lib. XI. ep. 14; Catherine, Letters 244 (227), 334 (30). Fra Bonaventura had pronounced Petrarca's funeral oration at Arquì, in 1374. Catherine's letter to him as cardinal (of which there are better texts, with additional matter, in the Casanatense MS. 292 and the Palatine MS. 57) was sent to him when at Florence, in the spring of 1379. Cf. *Anommo Fiorentino*, pp. 393-395. He was instrumental in the restoration of Talamone to Siena. On June 10, 1385, he was murdered on the Ponte Sant' Angelo at Rome. The Bartolommeo della Pace and Giovanni da Parma, to whom Petrarca addressed letters (*Ep. varte*, 50, 54, 61), are evidently not Catherine's correspondents of those names.